



January 2021 NCCWP Newsletter

Greetings, Friends of the Forest.

Thanks and appreciation to everyone actively involved with, or supportive of, the work of North Coast Communities for Watershed Protection over the past year.

It takes all of us to envision and work towards our goal: healthy ecosystems for all beings. After all, the forest is where our water comes from... and one thing we know is that *we can not make more water* once the damage is done.

All of our futures are interdependent. That sentiment expresses the importance of working as a group to protect the natural world. So, it's because of you that NCCWP continues to grow as one of the largest grassroots, volunteer-run groups in Oregon. We truly are a group of concerned local citizens, raising our voices for the health of forests, water, wildlife, and people.

If you would like to become more involved, we have volunteer opportunities for various skills and interests. NCCWP would like to expand our efforts in media outreach, nature monitoring, legislative concepts, and plenty more. We'd appreciate hearing from you about your interests, as well.

Fill out our [Volunteer Form](#) if you haven't already!

With a [donation](#) to North Coast Communities for Watershed Protection you can help provide us with the tools to save our watersheds and improve the quality of our water. Make a one-time donation or set up a reoccurring donation to make a difference in our community. [Future generations will thank you!](#)

And, so, here's to a joyous New Year, and the health of all in 2021 and beyond. Read on as we reminisce about the things NCCWP accomplished in the past year, as well as what we will be working on in the future.

Raising Our Voices in 2020

Resisting Harmful Logging Practices in Our Towns: We continued to call for [better notification](#) of upcoming industrial-forestry clear-cuts and pesticide spraying near our homes, towns, and drinking water sources. These are examples from [Wheeler](#), [Nehalem](#), and the [Jetty Creek](#) watershed near Rockaway Beach.

We also continue to track toxic smoke from prescribed slash pile burning with our [Smoke Signals community science project!](#)

Here's a [fun video](#) of our Rally in Wheeler back in January '20.

Timber Tax Fairness: NCCWP began the [Rural Citizens Timber Tax Initiative Concept](#), explained in epic detail by [Rob Davis](#) and [Tony Schick](#). This tax initiative concept aims to right the wrongs of current timber taxation so that rural Oregon receives proper funding for county and to improve the state laws that protect our watersheds.

Our goals are to revive the property tax on timber and re-direct OFRI funding in order to generate property tax funding for local jurisdictions, address and prevent harm to forested watersheds and fund needs for water infrastructure, and to address threats to communities in fire hazard zones. For a great example, let us compare Oregon with our neighboring

state of Washington: Oregon has 39% more forestland, Cuts 46% more timber, and yet Washington collects roughly three times more in taxes when trees are cut than Oregon.

Help us spread the word about these issues by writing letters to our elected officials, or work with us to get the news out in local papers. If you would like to learn more about this and get more involved please email [Peter Karnig](#). We could use your volunteer efforts to help us!

Forest Waters Watch: NCCWP and the Forest Waters Coalition have started the Forest Waters Watch Campaign to help people learn about their water- where it comes from, who owns the land in that watershed (and how that land is managed), and what contaminants may be present in the water. Join us to advocate for best practices to ensure healthy water, both for us and the fish. The more people watching and shining a light, the better.

Also, join us for training in building grassroots campaigns to challenge clear-cut logging of land that's a source for public drinking water. There will be a training session on [Wednesday, January 27, at 5:00 p.m.](#) Presenters will share their insights and experiences regarding the following: how to use the Oregon Department of Forestry's timber sale tracking system (FERNS) to monitor logging operations at the source of your drinking water; tools and techniques for challenging destructive logging projects; strategies for engaging with decision-makers; and effective approaches to growing grassroots power... and winning!

State Forest Habitat Conservation Plan: NCCWP contributed over 25 letters of support to the Oregon Department of Forestry for them to adopt a Habitat Conservation Plan. Nancy Webster and Ron Byers gave [public testimony](#) in support of the HCP. The Board of Forestry voted 6-0 to move forward with the HCP, delivering a blow to Big Timber and giving more protection to Oregon's forests. For an in-depth timeline, check out [OPB](#) or [this blog post](#).

Stimson Lumber Clear-Cut at Jetty Creek Watershed: After NCCWP [brought attention to Stimson Lumber's plans to clear-cut Olympic Line, the last significant stand of trees](#) that they owned there, *one hundred ten people wrote in protest* to the Oregon Department of Forestry! The Jetty Creek watershed is the most heavily logged watershed on the coast. It's doubtful that they've ever received so many letters protesting a private-land logging operation. People from many communities on the coast, as well as people from other parts of Oregon, wrote these letters. Also, Tillamook County Commissioner David Yamamoto said at a county commissioners meeting that they too had received a large number of letters about the Olympic Line clear-cut that were "facilitated by a well-organized group from outside Tillamook County." He was wrong about this being "orchestrated outside Tillamook County," but he was not wrong about it being "well-organized." So, thanks to everyone who wrote letters, and thanks for being so well-organized. Unfortunately, in spite of our efforts, Stimson is clear-cutting Olympic Line.

The Jetty Creek watershed is just one example of the devastation that is happening to drinking water and fish habitat all across Oregon. In the end, it is woefully clear that Oregon's logging laws – known as the Oregon Forest Practices Act – fail to adequately protect drinking water supplies and other natural resources. And, so, reforming Oregon's Forest Practices Act is the work we have ahead of us. Trygve Steen, Ph.D, is continuing to document the current condition of the Jetty Creek watershed and the link between clear-cut logging and the degradation of water quality and quantity. Recently, Nancy Webster and Dr. Steen hiked up to Olympic Line to take a look at this new clear-cut. It was painful to see its current condition and, after the recent heavy rains, to see muddy water from Jetty Creek flowing into the Nehalem River.

Pesticide Spray Notification System Development: Since the beginning, NCCWP has called for [meaningful notice to communities regarding aerial spraying](#). Continuing this work, we will be involved with the Oregon Department of Forestry in their development of an improved notification system, as required by [Senate Bill 1602](#). SB 1602, which calls for some *moderate* changes to the Oregon Forest Practices Act, came about as a compromise after the [uproar](#) in early 2020 caused by ballot measure proposals made by leading Oregon conservation groups. By collecting the most signatures of any organization in Oregon, NCCWP was a proud supporter of the original ballot measures.

Linn County Lawsuit: NCCWP has been included as one of the "Friends of the Court" in an amicus brief filed in the Court of Appeals in the case [Linn County v. State of Oregon](#). Ultimately, this case is about the long-held argument that state forests are for timber production above all other values. A top-tier team of lawyers is [confident that the State will prevail on appeal](#) so that our state forests will be more protected.

Amazing Interactive Maps:

[Pesticide Spraying in 2020:](#) Spray Free Coast put together an interactive map that displays all the FERNS notifications in 2020 for pesticide spraying. Clicking on a spray area shows the landowner, the spray operator, and a link to the full PDF report. This map can more effectively serve as a tool for grassroots community organizers to find out (and help others to find out) about pesticide spraying operations around them, since FERNS is not easy to use. Thanks to Teresa Bird from Coast Range Forest Watch for helping with this.

[Drinking Water of Coastal Oregon:](#) Outstanding work from EcoTrust. "Many communities on the Oregon coast rely on public drinking water systems that are fed solely by surface water. It is important to protect this vital resource and maintain source water quality to ensure clean and abundant water for our people, our economy, and our environment, now and for the future generations."

Check out their map to find where your drinking water comes from, and much more.

Some Stand-out Writing for the Year:

"[It's Pesticide Season in Tillamook County](#)" by Victoria Stoppiello.

[Trygve Steen](#), PH.D, calling the Oregon Forest Practices Act what it is—*inadequate!*

"[A Trip Into Stimson Land](#)" Neah-Kah-Nie Water District manager Richard Felley documented the aftermath of clear-cut logging and pesticide spraying above Foley Creek (a Class 1 coho spawning stream). These photos provide damning evidence that logging companies do not even follow the scant laws set forth in the Oregon Forest Practices Act, and yet are not held accountable for their continued onslaught upon our wildlife, water supplies, and communities.

"[The Eagles Flew Over](#)" by Gwendolyn Endicott.

"[When Will Enough Be Enough?](#)" by An Exhausted Fed-Up Tillamook County Property Owner.

"Sure, the poor communities will need to borrow millions of dollars to retrofit their water treatment facilities, but man, look at those stock prices soar!" [Michael Edwards](#) in The Oregonian.

A Final Thank You

As we begin a new year, North Coast Communities for Watershed Protection will continue to advocate for best practices regarding forestry management of Oregon forests. We hope that you will continue to support us and our efforts. May the Forest be with you.

North Coast Communities for Watershed Protection (formerly Rockaway Beach Citizens for Watershed Protection) is a grassroots group working, through education and advocacy, for better protections of the water we drink, the air we breathe, and the forests that sustain us.

healthywatershed.org [www.facebook.com/](https://www.facebook.com/NCCWATERSHEDPROTECTION)

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YES, YOU CAN do something

to end clearcut logging and aerial spraying



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**North Coast Communities
for Watershed Protection**

a growing grassroots group since 2010